FIELD NOTES

Record

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Mole Rat

1.

Mammal Rough Note Book for South Africa

Tom Larson, 1947

Aug. 15, 230

Port Elizabeth, 120 ft. Golf Course, South Africa

Mole rat (Georychus hottentotus typicus)

Serial numbers – (230 – Aug. 15, 1947) (235, 236 – Aug. 16) (237, 238, 239, 240, 241 – Aug. 17) (249, 250, 251, – Aug. 19) (253, 254, 255, 256 – Aug. 19, Aug. 20)

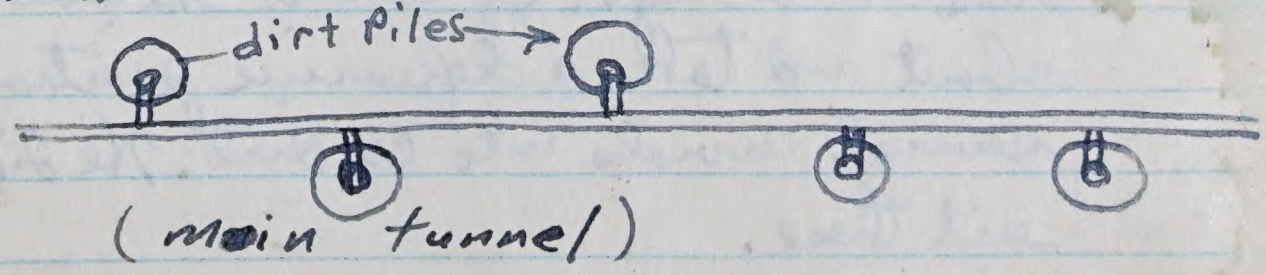
(1)

= 117770

Family – (Bathyergidae)

All these specmens were caught in special mole traps set in runways on the Port Elizabeth golf course. This golf course is infested with mole rats, golden moles, and the blesmoles. The piles of dirt pushed up by the mole rats average from two to ten or more feet apart. The animal will make a small passage off to the side of the main tunnel, bore to the surface and push the dirt out. In broad daylight you can see the pile of dirt enlarge as the little animal works. Though the mole rat is most active at night, he will also work during the day as well.

The animal feeds on the roots of plants. He seems to prefer grass roots. In trapping the mole rat, I would push aside the damp dirt of a fresh working, poke my finger into the outlet hole and feel the main tunnel passage. Usually the outlet passages are made at right angles to the main tunnel. Once I located the main tunnel I would cut out a square piece of sod about 4" by 4" and insert the trap directly in the passage way. I would put grass over the trap then dirt. Outline of typical mole rat tunnel network



Many of the mole rats were still alive when released from the traps. They have tiny pin head sized white eyes. They are game little fighters. When I poked them with a straw they would hold their ground and fight back courageously. They would open their mouth and lunge at the straw biting it with the long incisors. The animal make a squeaking noise when injured. When trying to escape they will back up usually. Above ground in daylight they are blinded by the bright light so do not move as rapidly as they would under normal circumstances. I found two females with fetus, one with 4 and the other with 3.

At Gladysvale, in the Transvaal, I captured two mole rats alive for observations. One was caught by the neck so was alive yet stunned very badly. However, after several hours he recovered enough to fight and bore into the black dirt I had in a 5 gal. gas tin. The other mole rat was in perfect condition when captured while he was pushing up dirt. He was a game fighter though almost blind in daylight. He had a vicious temper - he would snap at the air grind his teeth and make a little squeak. This temper lasted for sometime before he quieted down. I put him into the can of dirt and he promptly dug him self in. He would dig ahead with his front feet and long incisors and push the dirt up with his hind legs. If touched he would quickly face about and take a defensive position. I buried several carrots into the dirt. He did not hesitate to eat these.

Golden Mole

2.

(2) Port Elizabeth, 120 ft. Golf Course, South Africa
Golden mole (Family - CHRYSOCHLORIS)
(Amblysomus - hottentotus)
Serial numbers - (231, 232, 233, 234 - Aug. 15, 16)
(244, 245, 246, 248 - Aug. 19)

The beautiful little animal feeds on insects under the ground. It takes much of the blame for vegetable damage which is done by the mole rat and the Blesmol. His tunnels are generally several inches below the surface. He has many side openings to the main tunnels which he uses to push out the dirt. These dirt heaps are generally every 3 or 4 feet apart. When caught alive he utters tiny squeeks and tries to burrow into the ground. He is completely blind above the surface of the ground. Though most active at night he will also work during the day. I have seen him push up the dirt from his main tunnel. You can always tell his direction of travel by his fresh, moist earth excavations.

3. Blesmole

Location: Port Elizabeth, 120 ft. Golf Course.

(3) Family - ~~Bath~~ (BATHYERGIDAE)

Genus-species - (Georchus capensis)

Serial numbers (247 - Aug. 19) (252 - Aug. 19)

These two large Blesmols were caught in mole traps. They threw up large mounds of dirt much larger than the golden mole or the molerat. They were dead in the trap so I was unable to observe their actities while alive. They feed on vegetation, especially the roots of grasses. They seem to prefer the cultivated grasses of lawns and golf courses when it is available. Their burrows are deeper and larger than the smaller moles. They do a great deal of damage to lawns and crops. They have their main tunnels with frequent side branches with openings to cast out the earth from their diggings.

Bat -

Location - Maitland Mine, 20 mi. w. Port Elizabeth.

(4) Family -

Genus species -

Serial numbers - (262, 263, 264, 265 - Aug. 21 - Maitland mine, 279 - Aug. 26 - Amanzi Estate - 1 mi N. Uitenhage, 297, 298 - Aug. 31, Maitland mine, 313 - Sept 9, Pickford farm - Perseverance)

The specimens taken from the Maitland mine were not numerous compared with the thousands of the other species. They were found clinging to the cave walls in a number of places in the mine and not more than a half dozen in any one place. These bats were more alert and readily aroused than the smaller bat. Only a few specimens could be captured as most of them took to flight before I could approach very close. I used a miners lamp on this occasion. These bats were infested with ticks and also a little spider which nestled in the fur. I think the little spider fed on small insects on the body.

Bat -

Location - Maitland Mine, 20 mi. W. Port Elizabeth

(5) Family -

Genus Species -

Serial numbers (257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278 - Aug. 21 - Maitland Mines) (299, 300, 301 - Aug. 31 - Maitland Mines)

The Maitland mines were first opened up by the Portuguese several hundred years ago. The mines have been abandoned for many years except for thousands of bats. This species was present in thousands. I could estimate that there were at least 5 thousand as a conservative estimate. The bats could be picked of the walls and ceiling by the handfull. Some clusters had as many as 15. They seemed to be of all ages and both sexes were present. I could capture them at will until the whole population became thoroughly activated. Then the tunnels were a fabric of fluttering bat wings. They were so numerous that their wings continually brushed my face. Many flew out into the open but most of them would fly to some other part of the mine and settle down. Their squeaks filled the air. The dung was several inches deep on the floor from many years of bat occupation. These bats also were inhabited by little spiders.

6. Mouse

Location: Amanzi Estate,
Family -
(6) Genus Species -
Serial numbers - (280, 281, 1 mi N. from Uitenhage Amanzi Estate, Aug. 26,)

These two mice were caught in traps set along a small creek. The creek banks were lined with grass and thorny bushes and cactus. The traps were baited with mealie meal.

(307, 308, Sept. 9, Perseverance) (314 - Sept. 10 - Perseverance) (322 - Sept. 11 - Perseverance)

These specimens were caught in traps set along the banks of the Swartkops river which is at sea level. The area adjacent to the river was a low grassy area. Were several species of succulent plants growing here. There were many tunnels of mice and rats in this area. None of these specimens were seen alive.

7.

Springhare

Family -(PEDETIDÆ)
Genus species -(Pedetes caffer)
(7) Serial numbers - (282, ~~283~~, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288 - Amanzi Estates, 1 mi. N. Uitenhage, Aug. 26, 1947) (304, 305, 306 - Pickford Farm, Perseverance Junction - Sept. 2, 1947) (316, 317 - Pickford Farm - Sept. 9, 1947)

All these specimens when were shot with a 12 gauge shotgun at night with the aid of a miner's lamp. They prefer open country with scattered brush and grass which they feed upon. They also feed on the leaves of succulent plants. Their holes cause much damage to fields when they are in great abundance. Each springhare will have a number of dens which go several feet below the surface.

There can be no mistaking of the springhare when hunting at night. Their large eyes, about the size of a 50 cent piece can only be seen on one side of the head at a time. The eye is very bright and has a bluish tinge and often a reddish color. Once alarmed the animal will raise and lower his head in an inquisitive manner then go bounding off on his long hind legs to cover. He will feed a long ways out from his den if necessary. When moving at night you can see a large eye bobbing up and down. When wounded this animal will utter a cry like the crying of a baby. Three of the females taken had well developed embryos.

The springhare does considerable damage to fields. They often live in colonies. They dig large, deep holes. I have noticed several escape passages for each den. much

their feeding is done at night. They prefer a semi arid habitat.

8.

Vley Otomy - Veld Rat

Subfamily - (Otomyinae)
Genus - species - Otomys ?
Serial numbers - (289 - Aug. 29, Persevverance,) (294 293 Aug. 30, Persevverance,) (303 - Sept. 1, Persevverance,) (309, 310, - Sept. 9, Persevverance) (319, 320 321 - Sept. 10, Persevverance) (323 - Sept. 11 - Persevverance) (324, 325 - Sept. 12, Persevverance) (326, 327 - Sept. 13, Persevverance) (341, 342, 343, 344 345, 346, 347 - Davies - Sept. 25)

(8)

This rat was in the greatest abundance of all specimens caught in traps along the Fountain river. They had a regular network of tunnels in the grass and succulent plants. Their dung was in abundance at favorite feeding places. They ate the succulent plant leaves as their main food. Were mostly nocturnal in habit though I have seen them move rapidly about in the daytime in their tunnels.

9.

Fruit Bat - Anvil Bat

Family - PTEROPODIDÆ
Genus - Species - Epomophorus ?
Serial numbers - (290, 291, 292 - Port Elizabeth, Aug. 29, 1947, 302 - St. Georges Park, Port Elizabeth, Sept. 1, 1947)

(9)

These fruit bats were shot at night with a 38 cal. rifle and with the use of a miners headlamp. The bat is quite easy to locate as he gives himself away by his distinctive high pitched anvil like call which carries a long ways. He utters this sharp call every few seconds unless alarmed. Even when alarmed he cannot resist the temptation of calling out at frequent intervals. I have stalked these bats within a few yards. They hang upside down in the trees. Their small bright eyes present an easy target. They are quite easily alarmed and take flight. However if you wait patiently they will usually come back to the same tree. They seem to prefer pine and wild fig trees. I shot all of these bats in pine trees in the hills between Walmer and St. Georges Park in Port Elizabeth. Even when badly wounded they cling tenaciously to the branches. When in flight you can hear the swishing of their long wings. All specimens taken were males. On moonlight nights the bats can see you coming so will take flight before you are within range.

10. Short Snouted Jumping Shrew

Family - (Soricidae)
Genus species - (Nasilio brachyrhynchus)
(10) Serial numbers - (295 - Sand dune, 15 ft. Van Staardens River Mouth, 25 mi. W. Port Elizabeth)

I didn't see this shrew alive so can only record his habitat. He was taken in a trap set on a sand dune about 100 yards from the sea. The dune was about 15 feet high and partly covered with numerous species of succulents and thorny bushes. Saw many small rodent and shrew tracks on the sand and dung in the favorite feeding places.

11.

Mouse -

Family -

Genus Species

Serial numbers (296 - Sand dune, 15 ft. Van Staarden's River mouth, 25 mi W. Port Elizabeth)

(11)

This rather rare little long tailed mouse was taken in a trap on the sand dune in the same locality as the Short snouted Jumping Shrew. He is nocturnal in his feeding and activities.

12. Hare

Family -(LEPORIDAE)
Genus species -
Serial numbers - (315- Pickford farm, Perserverance Junetion, 12mi N. Port Elizabeth, Sept. 1.)

(12)

This hare lived in the same habitat as the Springhare. Shot this hare along the Swartkops river which is open country with pretty poor and low brush and grassland, semi arid habitat. This is the common Cape Hare which has wide distribution in South Africa. During the day the hare hides in cover of thick brush or clumps of high grass. This hare was shot at night with the aid of a lamp.

13. Bat

Family –
Genus Species
Serial numbers – (311 – skull only,

(13)

14. Striped Rat

Family: Murinae
Genus species - (318)
Serial numbers - (~~318~~, - Sept. 10, Perseverance)
(A) (334, 335, 336, ~~337~~ - Table mt - Capetown - Sept. 20,
(337, 338, 339, 340 - Sept. 21, Milnerton, Capetown)
(349, 350, 351, - Sept. 26 - Garies) (422 - Oct. 2,
Garies) many taken in Southwest Africa at
Zinkenstein farm. They seemed to prefer to live
in thick low clumps of bushes. Have seen them
running about under the bushes in the daytime.
They take to baited traps very readily. Several
times I have captured two at a time in a trap.
Their skin is very delicate so great care must be
taken in skinning. Have seen clumps of bushes
alive with striped mice of all ages. They
make a high pitched speaking noise as they
scurry about. In these patches of bush
I have found as many as 4 birds, gerbils
and gerbils living together. They are
common in many different habitats for I
have trapped them along rivers in arid
Southwest, along the seacoast at Milnerton,
in the Karoo and at the foot of Table mt.
in Cape Town.

15. Dwarf Mouse

Family -
Genus species
Serial numbers (332 - North side Table mt. 400 ft. Capetown)

(15)

Caught in a trap on the slopes of Table mountain in bushy country as well as grassy. this area has quite an abundance of rainfall. the trap was baited with mealies.

16. Striped Polecat

Family -
Genus species -
Serial numbers - (348 - Garies, Namaqualand, Sept. 26, 1947) (425 - Garies - Oct. 2)

(16)

This polecat was taken in a trap in town while trying to rob a hen house at night. He was caught in a trap which was baited with meat. They hole up in the day and come out at night to forage for food. Have seen them along the roads at night but to shoot one at night with a head lamp but he was very wary and retreated rapidly without looking back as many animals will do.

17. Bat

Family:
Genus Species -
Serial numbers (352, 353, 354, 355 - House in Gaines, Mamaquoland, Sept. 27, 1947)

(17) These bats were brought to me by a small boy in Gaines. Each bat was a female and had one embryo apiece. In the evenings I have seen this bat enter a lighted room to catch insects flying around the light bulb.

18.

Bush Otomys

Family: Otomyinae
Genus species - Otomys unisulcatus
Serial numbers - (358, 359 - Sept. 27, 1947, 3/4 mi W. Garies, Namaqualand) (379, 380, 381, 382 - 1/2 - 1 mi W. Garies, Sept. 28) (385, 386, 1 mi. W. Garies, 384 (Skeleton) Sept. 29, 1947)

(18)

4 mammary glands, one with 3 well dev. embryos one with 4 well dev. embryos. The Veldt Otomys is found in abundance in the sandy semi desert veldt land. They live in colonies, usually on a slight rise or mound of ground. I have found many colonies in the area directly west of Garies. Each colony has many dens or holes which run a few inches below the surface and branch out into many interconnected tunnels. The animals feed on succulent plants found in abundance in the area.

The Veldt Otomys is active during the day even in the hotter parts of the day. He usually sits close to his hole or may be feeding near by. When alarmed he will run to the entrance of his hole and peer out at you in an upright position. He utters a piercing high pitched squeak. When you approach too closely he will dart into his hole. Soon he will stick his head out again to watch you. Usually the area of the colony is quite bare of vegetation due to his feeding activities. Freshly occupied holes often have a pile of dung and fresh dirt thrown out. Early in the morning and late in the afternoon the Otomys may be seen in abundance.

19. Black-Eared Jumping Shrew

Family -(Macroscelididae)
Genus species -(Macroscelides melanotis)
Serial numbers - (377, 378, 383 - shot with 38 cal, aux. shot in area ½ mi to 1 mi. west of Gories N. Namaqualand.)

(19) The Black-eared elephant shrew inhabits a sandy semi desert area. I have seen them running about with tail in air, scampering from one block to another or from one stone to another. They move about quite rapidly. Observed one sitting under a rock. His long soft nose twitched though the rest of his body was motionless. When alarmed the shrew will hide under a bush or take refuge in his den which is usually under a bush or under a stone or crevice in the rocks. They will often run into the holes made by the Velvet Otomy. Their own burrows have several escape outlets. They live in an area of succulent and of spiny desert plants which abound in insect life. They seem to live in close association with the Velvet Otomy. I have seen them scampering about in the cooler parts of the day in the mornings and evenings. Have also seen them basking in the hot sun near their holes. In one female I found two small embryo. The mammary glands were full of milk. In the males I found the long slender penis was in a mid ventral position. They are very delicate little animals and very timid.

20. Lizard

Family
Genus species
Serial numbers (375 - Sept. 28 Caries, Namaqualand)

21. Lizard

Family:
Genus species
Serial numbers (390, 391, - Sept. 29, (374 - Sept. 28) - Caries, Namaqualand)

22. Lizard

Family:
Genus Species:
Serial numbers: (364 - 369 - 1mi. w. Garies, Namaqualand, Sept. 27, 1947)

23. (AKKEDIS) Lizard

Family:
Genus Species:
Serial numbers: (387 - 1½ mi. W. Garies, Namaqualand, Sept. 29, 1947)

24. Lizard (male of 365)

Family:
Genus species:
Serial numbers: (361 - 1mi. w. Garies, Namaqualand, Sept. 27, 1947)(372 - 1mi. w. Garies, Sept. 28)

25. (Klepsardmander) Lizard

Family:
Genus Species:
Serial numbers: (360, 362, 366, 363, 368, - 1mi. w. Garies, Namaqualand, Sept. 27)(373 - Sept. 28 - 1mi. w. Garies)
(390 - 2mi. N. Garies - Sept. 30)

44

Africans - Bloubard

26.

Lizard

Family:

Genus species:

Serial numbers: (365, 367, 1 mi. w. Garies, Namaqualand, Sept. 27) (388, 389 - 1½ mi. w. " , Sept. 29) (391 - 2 mi. N. Garies - Sept. 30) (424 - Oct. 2. Garies)

27. Mouse

Family:

Genus Species:

Serial numbers: (330, 331, 333, - Sept. 19, 20, 1947 - South side Table Mt. 1000 ft. along stream)

20

28.

House Mouse

Family:

Genus Species

Serial numbers: (356, 357 - Sept. 27, Garies)

21

29. Frog - (Xenopus laevis)

Family:

Genus species: Xenopus laevis

Serial numbers: (392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398 - July 5, 1947 - Port Elizabeth)

Toad

Family:

Genus Species:

Serial numbers: (398 to 407 - Creek Bed in Garies, Namaqualand, Oct. 1, 1947)

31.

Rock Dassie

Family:

Genus species:

Serial numbers: (408, 410 - Oct. 1, Davies)

(22) Have observed the Dassie in Namaqualand, Southwest Africa and Cape Province in rocky habitats suitable for cover and protection. They prefer rocky cliffs which have narrow crevices and caves. When approaching Dassies, I have seen one or several old females standing lookout. When alarmed they utter a sharp bark which warns all the Dassies feeding or sunning themselves on the rocks. When warned thus of intruders, the Dassies utter the barking call and bound rapidly away to cover. They will sit on a ledge and watch you or peer out at you from a crevice. As soon as you move they will hide. They can climb up perpendicular crevices in the rock by using their back as a brace and walking about. Or they will straddle the crevice. In going down a crevice they back down usually. They are very agile in running over the rocks. Their cloven pads are like hard rubber pads which keep them from slipping on smooth rocks. Their bodies are firm and compact which insulate them for falls on the rocks. I have seen them run about down sharply sloped cliffs. They are extremely surefooted also can squeeze into narrow crevices. To kill a Dassie for a specimen you must hit them in the head. If you make the mistake of hitting their body they have enough strength to hide away in the rocks where you could never

fish than out. Early in the morning at the break of dawn the Dassies come out to feed on grass, leaves and succulent vegetation. If undisturbed they may wander quite a distance from their home in the rocks. When alarmed they will back readily to their rock retreat. In the hot part of the day they take to cover for a siesta. Later in the afternoon they come out again to feed or bask in the sun. They love to sun bath and will change their position many times to keep in the rays of the sun. They urinate and defecate in definite places on their rock ledges. You can see their accumulations of many years in these chosen spots. The Dassies are infested with ticks and fleas. ~~Hardly~~ ~~a few seconds pass without~~ When sitting in the sun, the Dassie ~~contains~~ intermittently scratches at his tormentors with his hind legs. It is very amusing to watch this performance. The animal has a silly grin on his face, a perpetual smile. ~~The young are born~~ I have made many observations from a young Dassie which I had as a pet. They make extremely intelligent pets and most amusing. When young they will become tame in a few days. If any stranger appears they will hide immediately. They are very tough and adaptable. The diet of my Dassie included, any vegetable and fruit, tobacco, tea, coffee, bean, milk, sugar, candy, grass, paper, fine cars of specimens and almost anything that I would eat and many things I would not eat or drink.

Dassies are very curious animals, and I spent many a delightful hour watching them. They are very sociable animals and live in colonies of from 20 to 30 or more. They are very quarrelsome and fighting is their pastime. The males are very pugnacious and have a deep growl. The females are very quiet and have a low whistle. The young are born in the hot weather and are very active and playful.

32.

Dassie Rat

Family: OCTODONTIDAE
Genus species: (Petromystyscus)
Serial numbers: (409, 411 Oct. 1, Davies)
(23) (413 - Oct. 2, Davies)

This animal has been observed by me in rocky country in Namaqualand and South-west Africa. It seems to favor the same habitat as the Dassie and is often mistaken for a young Dassie. This habitat is of rocks and cliff sides which have many cracks and crevices favorable for escape and hiding. The Dassie rat can squeeze into very narrow crevices in making its escape. It's a shy animal but can be observed if you sit quietly and well concealed. It will dart quickly from rock to rock never far from shelter. It clings to the rocks much like the dassie. Its skin is very thin and delicate. Two specimens I caught had no tails. They had been broken off at the body. Thus the animal could easily be mistaken for a young dassie. When I tried to skin 3 specimens, the skin almost fell apart. Was only able to make a study skin of one specimen. The rat feeds on succulent vegetation and grass near its rocky retreat. I have observed these rats feeding and darting about in the late afternoon and early morning. They like to sun themselves much like the dassie. In the heat of the day they stay under cover. One specimen had 3 embryos. Body is very flexible which enables them to crawl into narrow places. They have excellent protective

coloration, a dark brown, which makes them hard to detect unless in motion. I have never seen them jump from rock to rock, rather do they glide over the surface much like a liquid.

33. Mongoose ?

Family:

Genus Species:

Serial numbers: (412 - Oct. 2, Gomes)

(54) The only time I have seen these animals has been in the daylight. Once they know they are being watched they ~~do~~ run rapidly to cover off to their den, which is a hole in the ground, usually the hole made by a squirrel or a burrhet. I have caught them in traps baited with meat. These are my only observations as usually the only time you see them are when they are in rapid flight. They usually burrow their den hole in the middle of a dense spiny thicket.

34.

Lizard

Family:
Genus species:
Serial numbers:

35. Adder

Family:

Genus species

Serial numbers: (423 - Oct. 2, Davies)

36. Turtle

~~Family:~~

Genus species:

Serial numbers: (421 - Oct. 2, Garies)

(428 - Oct. 4 - Garies)

58

37

Hare

Family:
Genus Species:
Serial number: (426, 427 - Oct. 4, Davies)

25

38

Turtle

Family:
Genus Species:
Serial number: (429, 430 - Oct. 4, Davies)

60

39

Salamander

Family:
Genus species:
Serial number: (431 - Oct. 4 - Garies)

40. Lizard

Family:
Genus species:
Serial number: (434

No. 433

lizard

434 Le guano

436

Rock mouse

Family:

Genus species:

Serial Numbers:

(26)

Have trapped this species in Namaqualand, Southwest Africa and the transvaal. Have always found them in a rocky habitat. They make their nests in the crevices of rocks and among rocks. They are most numerous where there grass grows in the crevices of rocks. They usually frequent the same areas as Dassie rats and the Clip dassie. Have seen them living intermingling with the of the other two mentioned animals. Have never seen them in the day time so assume them to be nocturnal. Have hunted the rock mouse at night with a head lamp. They are quite easy to approach due to their curiosity in the light. They make a nest of sticks and grass in the rocks.

437 Jackal (Black backed)

Family: CANIDAE (X)

Genus species: (Canis mesomelas)

Serial numbers:

(27) In Southwest Africa I collected my Black backed jackal. At my camp on Spitzkopfontein farm 12 miles east of Windhuk, this jackal was in great abundance. During the day I have seen them hiding behind bushes to get out of the sun. They will start hunting late in the afternoon when the heat of the sun has subsided. As soon as the sun has gone down the jackals would come nearer my camp and set up a chorus of yaps and discordant sounds for hours. This would continue for several minutes. Then I would hear no more the rest of the night. Often the jackals would be answered by other jackals at scattered points. It is very difficult to trap them. They will usually steal the bait. I have caught them by placing 7 traps closely around the bait and covering the traps in sand and grass. I also secured the bait with a steel wire. After several days when the my scent had gone from the traps I caught the jackal. It is difficult to approach them during the day. At night I have come fairly close with the aid of a head lamp, but never quite close enough to kill them with a shot gun shell.

455

Hyena

28

457 Spring Buck

29

Gerbil - (Ovamboland)

Family:
Genus species:
Serial numbers:

(30) At Oshikango on the border of Angola in Ovamboland, the gerbil can be found in great numbers. The land here is flat, sandy and ~~covered~~ fairly open. Large trees do grow here and there. The gerbil seems to prefer to make its burrows in the fallow fields of Ovambos. They live in great colonies with inter-connecting tunnels. I have never seen them about in daylight. They will travel some distance at night in their foraging activities.

480

Spitting Cobra

495 Mongoose (Yellow)

(31)

546

Hartibeest

(32)

549 Genet Cat

Family:

Genus species:

(33) Serial Numbers: 549 - Ovamboland.

Shot one specimen of genet cat in a tree one night near Ombikango. Used a spot light. The cat took to a tree which made it easy to shoot. The cat was probably hunting springhare at the time of capture as many of these animals were in the same vicinity.

553 Bat

34

589

Tree Rat

Family:
Genus species:
Serial numbers:

(35) This is a nocturnal rodent. Have shot them at night sitting in trees or running thru the branches. Once while I was sitting in a tree at night waiting for jackal to come to a trap below me, I heard something running along a limb near by. I flashed on my head lamp and saw two tree rats one in pursuit of the other.

A pair of tree rats once made a nest of sticks, grass and paper in one of my large canvas bags in my tent on Finkenstein Farm in Southwest Africa. I shot the male but let the female live with her two young. The young ones were firmly attached to the nipples. I put the female and young in a box with some shredded paper. After much curiosity on my part she finally decided to leave with the young still clinging to her nipples very tightly. In desperation she finally flew to a tree in broad day light and ascended. They usually make their nests in hollow trees or in abandoned birds nests. However, they will make nests on the ground under rocks and brush.

598 Bot

36

608 Camas Ground Squirrel

Family: Sciuridae

Genus species: Geosciurus princeps.

Serial number:

(37) The Camas ground squirrel lives in colonies, often of large numbers. They usually prefer to dig their burrows under some protective low brush though they will also burrow in the open. They will feed at quite a distance from their burrows. When alarmed they will scamper for their holes and if not closely pursued will sit up and watch you. They emit high piercing calls, usually just before diving from into the hole. If you wait patiently out of sight they will soon reappear, the emerging from their burrows very slowly and cautiously. They feed on grasses, leaves and other succulent vegetation. They often share their burrows with rattlesnakes as I have trapped both of these animals in the same colony. The runways of the colony are so well connected that to trap them you must close the openings of all holes except the ones where your traps are set.

619 **Baboon**

Family:
Genus species:
Serial Numbers:

(38) Have observed many baboons in Southwest Africa. During the dry months they come to the waterholes and wells of the farmers. If it rains they will remain in the mountains. They have a wide foraging radius. The band, with its old male leader, varies in size from a few, few up to a hundred or more. They are continually in search of food or their mountains, or on their way to water. They eat scorpions, insects, small rodents, succulent plants and grass. In brought areas they will attack young lambs, rip them open and eat them. They also eat the prickly pear. The baboon has extremely keen, telescopic sight. Usually several members of the band act as sentinels while the others feed. If you come toward them they are away out of reach in a few moments. When trying to shoot, upon the run they move very lightly in a irregular jumping, dodging gait which resembles a jackrabbit. If you frighten one of the band, some of the others will try to protect the wounded member while the others flee. While in pursuit the leader will roar continuously. This is a loud, repulsive bellow. The younger baboons will scream. When in flight the baboon will take to the mountains as fast as he can go. Occasionally they will stop on all fours to look back. They have certain places in the hills or mountains where they sleep at night. As soon as the sun comes up they start their daily travels in search of food. When it rains they take to sheltering caves or ledges in the rocks. Their dung is much like human dung. If a young baboon has been wounded or killed no female,

the band will often turn to fight. Dogs are often killed by these bantes and herons attacked. When a baboon bites he hangs on with his teeth and pulls the victim away with his hang. His bite is very injurious. In dry seasons when food is scarce in the veld, the baboon will raid the farms. He is especially fond of corn and will even enter houses.

637 Pale Elephant Shrew

(39)

641 Stupid mouse

613 Gerbil

(210)

675

Bat

41

707 Bat

42

100

721

Bat

43

731

Red Rock Hare

Family: Leporidae

Genus Species:

Serial Numbers:

(44) This large hare is found in the high mountain regions of South Africa. I have seen them in Namaqualand and Southwest. They are difficult to shoot in the daytime as they dart in and out between the rocks so rapidly that they never leave themselves open for a shot. They feed on succulent plants and grass. I found one of this hares under a rock one day and was able to kill it with fine shot. The skin is so delicate that skinning is very difficult. The hair comes out very easily. I have seen great quantities of this species on top of some of the higher mountains of Southwest. They are much quicker and more active than the common Cape Hare.

232 ~~Meerkat (black tailed)~~

Family: Herpestidae

Genus Species: Suricata Suricatta

(45) This meerkat lives and travels as a colony. They often live in the burrows dug by the ground squirrel, tho will also dig its own burrows. During the day they travel in a group to their feeding grounds. If alarmed or disturbed they will run to their burrows. The young can often be over taken. When the meerkat runs it does so with its tail straight in the air. When they get to the entrance of their dens, they frontally sit upright to watch you. Have often seen the meerkats in groups of from ten to 40 cross the road in front of me. They are a very timid animal in captivity. They frantically scratch the earth in fright into mischief.

734

Delaware Fox

Family:
Genus species:
Serial number:

(A6) Have seen this fox between Lo Habis Southwest Africa and Windhoek and also at Omatako flat. Pursued a full grown fox in a jeep. Tho he is not as fast a runner as a jackal he is very clever in the manner in which he chooses his cover. He finally escaped by running across a deep drain, knowing we would not be able to follow him.

At Omatako flat, which is an open plain, I saw a whole family of these foxes. There were five young ones two adults. The young ones half grown. They had several dens which they took to after being first spoken. Before firing at them they looked on for several minutes, without apparent alarm. Approached a young one at night with the use of a light. He was more curious than frightened.

735 Wild Boar

47

738 Civit Cat

48

739 Lord Wolf

49

741 Mongoose

50

748 Gerbil (white behind ear)

51

831

Ratel

Family: Mustelidae
Genus Species: Mellivora Capensis

(52) The ratel travels around singly or in pairs. They are continually roaming around so they seldom keep steady by chance. They are omnivorous, having a great variety of food. Their hide is so tough that the sting of bees does not hurt them. Their eyes are small thus not much for excellent vision. However, they are such a formidable fighter that few animals will attack them. In Southwest Africa I have heard of incidents where ratels were bitten by dogs. This treatment did not seem to harm them in the least. Have also heard of incidents where packs of dogs have attacked them. Several of the dogs were killed and badly wounded, but the ratels were apparently unhurt. They will not attack a person unless they have been detected. This specimen was shot by the neck with a 22 bullet. This did not seem to have any effect until several more shots were fired into the neck. The body is very solid and compact which makes it very difficult to injure the animal. They seem to be quite common in the Natal region of Southwest Africa.

853

Quiber

53

857 Monday

54

878 Porcupine

55

583 Cape Ground Squirrel

56

Bat (909) Glodiggs vale

57

Mouse (925) Gladysvale

58

Water Mongoose (925) Gladysvale

59

Single Striped Mouse

Gladysvale,

60

Mouse
(Gladysvale)

61

(62)

Bat
Gladysvale

63

Gerbil
Gladysvale

64

Gerbil
(Gladysvale)

Skink

Wildebeest (65)

(66)

Shrew

66

Giant Shrew

(67) Striped Mouse (Transvaal)

(68) Gerbil Leydsdorp

(69) Lemur (Small type)

(70) Lemur (large type)